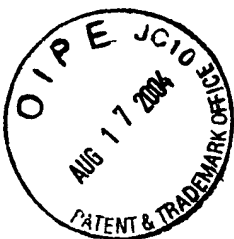


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GROUP 3600

In re Application of:

STEFFANIE G. WADDINGTON
DAN A. WHITE
THOMAS M. MAGILL
DONALD G. WALKER
ERWIN MILTON JESSE BORK, III
WARREN T. GEORGE

Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: CUFF, Michael A.

Atty. Dkt. No.: 11867.0003.NPUS00
(MKSS:003)

Serial No.: 09/867,814

Filed: MAY 30, 2001

For: DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

AUGUST 17, 2004 RESPONSE TO FEBRUARY 17, 2004 OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2004, for which the six-month date for response is August 17, 2004, as a request for three month extension of time is being filed concurrently herewith, which is within the statutory period. No other fees are believed to be associated with filing this response; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11867.0003.NPUS00.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.